

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ABC SUSPENDS LIQUOR LICENSE OF CHICO STORE**

**Chico** – For the second time in two months, the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has suspended the liquor license of a Chico business for selling alcohol to minors. ABC investigators and officers of the Chico Police Department today posted a 25-day liquor license suspension of the Bar-X Liquors, 915 Main Street in Chico.

The action was taken after an incident in which a Chico Police officer watched three 19-year-old females pool their money at the counter of the store to purchase a bottle of rum. The clerk who sold the alcohol asked for no identification.

The three young women have since gone to court, have been fined for purchasing alcohol, and lost their driver licenses for a year. The clerk also appeared in court last week and was fined \$1,000 and ordered to perform 24 hours of community service.

This was the second sales to a minor violation for the store within a three-month period, and the seventh time since the owner obtained the liquor license in 1971. The Bar-X Liquor was fined \$3,000 in February for a December 2001 incident involving a minor. Under state law, a third sale to a minor within a three-year period could result in a permanent revocation of the license.

The liquor store may remain open during the suspension, but will not be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, ABC and Chico Police officers posted a 15-day suspension on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Ivy Market for selling to minors. A third sale to a minor violation is pending which may result in permanent revocation of the liquor license.